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Serial Number: 10/815,008   Dkt: 1370.281US1
Filing Date: March 30, 2004
Title: PROVIDING ENTERPRISE INFORMATION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

causing each of at least two different executable agents that are associated with respective underlying data sets to perform tasks on data in the associated underlying data set, to produce processed data, the processed data produced by the different executable agents being expressed in a manner that is formally consistent, temporally consistent, and current with respect to the information to be provided through the application used to manage an enterprise, the executable agents being organized in accordance with a network model ~~and being configured to declare their capabilities to one another~~, the executable agents being of a type from the group of: data extractor, data transformer, and information change monitor;

providing a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise; and

delivering the processed data among the agents to enable assembly of the body of aggregated and summarized information that is provided through the application used to manage an enterprise, based on the processed data, to be used to manage aspects of the enterprise.

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 in which the agents have ports to send and receive the processed data.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 in which at least some of the processed data pass through routing devices between agents.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 4 in which the routing devices comprise hubs, routers, and gateways.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 in which the agents are part of a network that conforms to the network model and includes network links to deliver the processed data.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 in which at least some of the links are temporary.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6 in which the temporary links define a dynamically configured network that conforms to the network model.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 6 in which at least some of the links are persistent.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 in which a group of the agents operate in a subnetwork that conforms to the network model, and the subnetwork comprises a portion of a network that conforms to the network model.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 in which another instance of the subnetwork comprises a portion of another network that conforms to the network model.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the agents are distributed.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the agents are distributed at least in part geographically.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1 in which at least some of the associated information is stored in databases.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which at least some of the processed data comprise events.

16.   (Canceled).

17.   (Canceled).

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 in which the agents comprise at least part of a network that conforms to the network model and a process external to the network makes requests to the network for at least portions of the processed data for use in assembling the body of aggregated and summarized information.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18 in which the external process comprises an expert engine.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19 in which the expert engine is driven by a model.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

        providing an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored in repositories at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

        from the repositories of data related to an enterprise, obtaining current data to be used in connection with managing aspects of the enterprise, the current data being provided by a plurality of agents being organized in accordance with a network model and being configured to

~~declare their capabilities to one another~~, the agents being of a type from the group of: data extractor, data transformer, and information change monitor;

enhancing the formal consistency of the current data received from different ones of the repositories;

temporarily storing portions of the enhanced current data to enhance temporal consistency of the current data;

using a model of the portion of the enterprise to analyze the temporally and formally enhanced current data and to generate resulting management data, the model including a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise; and

distributing the management data in a time frame that is current relative to the current data obtained from the repositories;

the identity of the current data of the data sets changing adaptively over time based on the model and on the resulting management data that is to be distributed.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21 in which the current data is pulled from the repositories.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 21 in which the current data is pushed from the repositories.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 21 also including storing the management data for later use.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 in which the management data is distributed by notification to a process that uses the management data.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 in which the management data is distributed by automated delivery of the management data to a process.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 21 in which the current data is obtained in response to a need for the resulting management data to be distributed.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 21 in which the current data is obtained at a time based on when the resulting management data is to be distributed.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 21 in which the identity of the current data that is obtained is based on the identity of the management data that is to be distributed.

30.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

provling an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at repositories at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

<u>providing a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise;</u>

processing data from the repositories in an assembly line fashion to produce management data that is useful in managing aspects of the enterprise, the assembly line including at least two separate executable agents to perform tasks on the data, the executable agents being organized in accordance with a network model ~~and being configured to declare their capabilities to one another~~, the agents including:

a cleansing agent to process data that would not otherwise be useful in producing the management data,

a normalizing agent to normalize the data,

a transformation agent to enhance the consistency of the data,

an assembler agent to assemble data to form the management data, and

a staging agent to form and stage data for further processing; and

the sequence and tasks of the agents in the pipeline being adaptable to changes in the aspect of the enterprise being managed.

31.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

providing a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise;

storing and updating, in a cube, multi-dimensional current data obtained from the data sets about an aspect of an enterprise;

storing, in a cube, data defining relationships between metrics used to manage a an aspect of the enterprise and the multi-dimensional current data;

storing, in a cube, metadata about the multi-dimensional current data; and

using the cubes to access current data in responding to queries, to generate the information useful in managing the aspect of the enterprise.

32.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

accumulating processed data about an enterprise from the data sets using at least two separate executable agents organized in a network model, the processed data that are accumulated being determined by predefined analytical processes that are associated with

functional aspects of the enterprise and that use the processed data to produce functional information about the enterprise, the enterprise belonging to a class of enterprises, the executable agents being organized in accordance with a network model ~~and being configured to declare their capabilities to one another~~, the executable agents being of a type from the group of: data extractor, data transformer, and information change monitor;

providing a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise; and

processing the functional information to produce the management information using the application, the application being reusable for other enterprises belonging to the class.

33.   (Original) The method of claim 32 in which the class comprises manufacturers.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 in which the class comprises financial services enterprises.

35.   (Original) The method of claim 32 in which the functional aspects include at least one of financial, supply chain, information technology, and sales.

36.   (Currently Amended) A physical article or object constituting a machine or manufacture and bearing instructions to cause a machine to:

provide an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

cause each of at least two different executable agents that are associated with respective data sets to perform tasks on data in the associated data set, to produce processed data, the executable agents being organized in accordance with a network model ~~and being configured to~~

~~declare their capabilities to one another~~, the executable agents being of a type from the group of: data extractor, data transformer, and information change monitor;

provide a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise; and

deliver the processed data among agents to enable assembly of the body of aggregated and summarized information that is provided through the application used in managing the enterprise, based on the processed data, to be used to manage aspects of the enterprise.

37.   (Currently Amended) A physical article or object constituting a machine or manufacture and bearing instructions to cause a machine to:

provide an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored in repositories at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

from the repositories of data related to an enterprise, obtain current data to be used in connection with managing aspects of the enterprise, the current data being provided by a plurality of agents being organized in accordance with a network model ~~and being configured to declare their capabilities to one another~~, the agents being of a type from the group of: data extractor, data transformer, and information change monitor;

enhance the formal consistency of the current data received from different ones of the repositories;

temporarily store portions of the enhanced current data to enhance temporal consistency of the current data;

use a model of the portion of the enterprise to analyze the temporally and formally enhanced current data and to generate resulting management data, the model including a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise;

distribute the management data in a time frame that is current relative to the current data obtained from the repositories; and

change the identity of the current data of the data sets adaptively over time based on the model and on the resulting management data that is to be distributed.

38.   (Currently Amended) A physical article or object constituting a machine or manufacture and bearing instructions to cause a machine to:

provide an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at repositories at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

provide a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise;

process data from the repositories in an assembly line fashion to produce management data that is useful in managing aspects of the enterprise, the assembly line including at least two separate executable agents to perform tasks on the data, the executable agents being organized in accordance with a network model ~~and being configured to declare their capabilities to one another~~, the agents including:

a cleansing agent to process data that would not otherwise be useful in producing the management data,

a normalizing agent to normalize the data,

a transformation agent to enhance the consistency of the data,

an assembler agent to assemble data to form the management data, and

a staging agent to form and stage data for further processing; and

the sequence and tasks of the agents in the pipeline being adaptable to changes in the aspect of the enterprise being managed.

39.   (Currently Amended) A physical article or object constituting a machine or manufacture and bearing instructions to cause a machine to:

provide an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

provide a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise;

store and update, in a cube, multi-dimensional current data obtained from the data sets about an aspect of an enterprise;

store, in a cube, data defining relationships between metrics used to manage an aspect of the enterprise and the multi-dimensional current data;

store, in a cube, metadata about the multi-dimensional current data; and

use the cubes to access current data in responding to queries, to generate the information useful in managing the aspect of the enterprise.

40.   (Currently Amended) A physical article or object constituting a machine or manufacture and bearing instructions to cause a machine to:

provide an application used to manage an enterprise, the application generating a body of aggregated and summarized information, the information being temporally consistent and based on underlying data sets that represent revenues of the enterprise and that are generated or stored at respective locations of the enterprise, at least some of the data in different ones of the data sets being expressed in a manner that is temporally and formally inconsistent, the data of the underlying data sets changing over time;

accumulate processed data about an enterprise from the data sets using at least two separate executable agents organized in a network model, the executable agents being organized in accordance with the network model and being configured to declare their capabilities to one another, the processed data that are accumulated being determined by predefined analytical

processes that are associated with functional aspects of the enterprise and that use the processed data to produce functional information about the enterprise, the enterprise belonging to a class of enterprises, the executable agents being organized in accordance with a network model, the executable agents being of a type from the group of: data extractor, data transformer, and information change monitor;

provide a modeling layer including a business entity model to map a universal model into a native model in the context of the enterprise; and

process the functional information to produce the management information using the application, the application being reusable for other enterprises belonging to the class.